

Sanctuary Advisory Council



CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

December of 1998 marked the beginning of a new era in community involvement with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Since that time, the Sanctuary Advisory Council has been working successfully to enhance awareness and protection of this spectacular marine area by sharing valuable community advice, expertise and concerns about marine resource management at the Channel Islands.

Purpose

Recognizing that National Marine Sanctuaries belong to all of us, community involvement and advice are vital components to successful management and long-term protection of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary Advisory Council provides a public forum for consultation and deliberation and offers community-based advice to the Sanctuary Manager. This is an open participatory process that assures continued public input to management decision-making, while at the same time expanding public awareness about the Sanctuary and challenging marine resource management issues.

Specifically, the Advisory Council's objectives are to provide the Sanctuary Manager with advice on:

- ⇒ Protecting natural and cultural resources;
- ⇒ Identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues involving Sanctuary use or resources;
- ⇒ Identifying and realizing the Sanctuary's research and monitoring objectives;
- ⇒ Identifying and enhancing educational opportunities to increase the public knowledge and stewardship of the Sanctuary environment; and
- ⇒ Assisting to develop an informed constituency to increase awareness and understanding of the purpose and value of the Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Membership

Non-government Council members are appointed competitively by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and serve voluntarily for two-year terms. One of the Council's most important strengths comes from the diversity of its membership. The Council consists of twenty-one voting members and twenty-one alternates that represent the following constituencies and agencies:

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| λ Tourism | λ Conservation | λ California Dept. of Fish & Game |
| λ Business | λ Chumash Community | λ National Park Service |
| λ Recreation (non-consumptive) | λ Public At-Large (2 seats) | λ National Marine Fisheries Service |
| λ Recreational Fishing | λ Ventura County | λ Minerals Management Service |
| λ Commercial Fishing | λ Santa Barbara County | λ U.S. Department of Defense |
| λ Education | λ California Resources Agency | λ U.S. Coast Guard |
| λ Research | λ California Coastal Commission | |

Additionally, managers of the four California National Marine Sanctuaries (Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay) participate as non-voting members of the Advisory Council. The in-depth and varied knowledge of all participants brings together a valuable collective body of expertise and experience.

The fishing industry, conservation organizations, local businesses, resource managers, research and educational institutions, and the concerned public -- these groups and others represent diverse, and sometimes competing, values and interests. Recognizing the strength of advice built on input from a diversity of viewpoints, the Advisory Council provides a model for developing agreements based on shared values and common interests.

Working Groups

Community involvement in Sanctuary management is further enhanced through the Advisory Council's establishment of several Working Groups. Working Groups are created by and operate under the purview of the Council, and help to bring in additional stakeholders and experts to focus on specific issues.

The Advisory Council has approved formation of the following standing Working Groups:

- Sanctuary Education Team
- Commercial Fishing Working Group
- Recreational Fishing Working Group
- Conservation Working Group
- Research Activities Panel
- Chumash Community Working Group

An Open Public Process

The Advisory Council conducts itself in an open, transparent and publicly accessible process. This allows for comprehensive and effective participation of all stakeholders. All meetings of the Council are open to the public, and each member helps link the Sanctuary and the Advisory Council process to extensive networks of constituencies. The Advisory Council thus serves as the Sanctuary's connection to the broader community of stakeholders, and as an entry point for community participation in Sanctuary management. The Advisory Council meets every other month in open sessions located throughout the Ventura and Santa Barbara region.

It's Your Sanctuary... Get Involved!

The Advisory Council process is helping to vest ownership and responsibility for shaping the future management and protection of the Sanctuary in the community most interested in and dependent upon Sanctuary resources. In this way, a sense of community-based Sanctuary stewardship is fostered.

All meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its Working Groups are open to the public. Please consider attending a meeting or contacting the Sanctuary office to learn more about this community process. Complete information about the Sanctuary Advisory Council, including meeting schedules, can be found on the Sanctuary's web site: www.channelislands.noaa.gov. You can also sign up to be notified about Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings or open seats here: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>. You can also contact the Sanctuary Advisory Coordinator at (805) 966-7107.